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Going green is cutting into hotel housekeepers' livelihoods

For hotel guests who care more about saving water and electricity than they do about clean towels and a freshly scrubbed tub, opting out of housekeeping seems like the right thing to do.

But the housekeepers who would otherwise be cleaning these rooms, many of them immigrants, say the increasingly popular programs are cutting into their livelihoods by reducing their hours, making their schedules more erratic, and — ironically — making their jobs harder.

The "green" initiatives, embraced by the world's largest hotel company, Marriott International, and other chains, are at the heart of a contract battle between local hotels and hospitality union Unite Here Local 26, which claims they are cost-cutting measures in disguise.

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